

**CONCURRING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

*Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Order on Reconsideration,
CC Docket No. 96-45.*

Through this Order, the Commission addresses numerous petitions for reconsideration of two prior Commission Orders, both released in 1997, concerning universal service. This Order dismisses many of the issues raised as moot, particularly where the Commission subsequently acted to address an issue in other proceedings. Many of the actions affirmed here predate my tenure at the Commission. In other instances, the Order dismisses petitions for reconsideration where the same or similar issues have been raised and are pending in other proceedings. Given the age of the petitions for reconsideration that we address here and the need for the Commission to manage efficiently its own dockets, I support this Order.

While I support efforts to reduce the Commission's backlog, there are numerous fundamental universal service issues implicated here, including contribution methodology, the capping of the high cost fund, the sale of exchanges, and the sufficiency of support for carriers in insular areas. Each of these important subjects is raised more broadly in other open proceedings before the Commission. I hope that we move forward expeditiously with our consideration of those proceedings and my concurrence to this item does not prejudice my substantive policy position on the issues raised there.

